

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

March, 22, 1887.

Sir:

With regard to the shortage complained of in quarter dollars in letters of A. F. U. S. at Chicago of Mar. 12 & 18, I beg to say:

That no quarter dollars were sent to any A. F. U. S. during the year 1885, as our records conclusively show. From January to December of that year our stock of Quarter Dollars never decreased beyond the sums taken from the vault for use on the counter. As the Asst. Treasurer at Chicago says that the bag had been piled in stock since October 1885, and that he has no knowledge of the length of time it had been in the office, I most respectfully submit that this is too vague a clue to be followed out in verifying a cash business. Besides, it does not follow that the coin went from the Mint to the Asst. Treasurer at Chicago at all, as millions were transferred from the Mint to A. F. U. S. at New York, Philadelphia,

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and to the Treasurer of the U.S. at Washington, from 1873 to 1878, and since early in 1878 no shipments of Quarters and Halves have been made to any order save that of the Treasurer, and, so far as I knew, none except small lots of new coins for the usual New Year purposes. The bag returned indicates quarters of 1877 and earlier.

As to shortages in Drives: I find that Transfer Order #12993 was for Drives, and was honored, and receipted for by Adams Express Co. Nov. 28, 1885. Presumably it was sent to Chicago, but the order itself is in Washington, and I cannot further say. That shipment was made from the Coiner's scales, and I am not willing to say that a variation of five pieces could not have occurred, though that is well-nigh impossible. The sudden exposure of the scale to a draught of air would possibly cause a variation so considerable, but I am unable to believe that there could be a shortage of exactly five pieces in three

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out of five bags, which were called for by Treasury
Order #12993. If such a shortage occurred it
inured to the benefit of the coiner. But I do not see
how he can be called upon to make it up. His settlement
have discharged him from the liability for shortages in

1885

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,
Superintendent.

Very Respectfully
W. H. Cobb
arb

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L. S. Mint.

March 22. 1887.

M. H. Cobb.

Cashier.

Explains Shortage, complained
of by Asst Treas. L. S. Chicago.
March 12th & 18th (in quarter
Dollars.)



[Abstract:] Explains shortage, complained of by Asst. Treas. U.S. Chicago...

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
March 22, 1887

Sir:

With regard to the shortage complained of in quarter dollars in letters of A.T. U.S. at Chicago of Mar. 12 & 18. I beg to say:

That no quarter dollars were sent to any A.T. U.S. during the year 1885, as our records conclusively show. From January to December of that year our stock of Quarter Dollars never decreased beyond the sums taken from the vault for use on the counter. As the Asst. Treasurer at Chicago says that the bag had been piled in stock since October 1885, and that he has no knowledge of the length of time it had been in the office, I most respectfully submit that this is too vague a clue to be followed out in verifying a cash business. Besides, it does not follow that the coin went from the Mint to the Asst. Treasurer's at Chicago at all, as millions were transferred from the Mint to A.T. U.S. at New York, Philadelphia, and to the Treasurer of the U.S. at Washington, from 1873 to 1878, and since early in 1878 no shipments of Quarters and Halves have been made to any order save that of the Treasurer, and, so far as I knew, none except small lots of new coins for the usual New Year purposes. The bag returned indicated quarters of 1877 and earlier.

As to shortages in Dimes: I find that Transfer Order #12993 was for Dimes, and was honored, and receipted for by Adams Express Co. Nov. 28, 1885. Presumably it was sent to Chicago, but the order itself is in Washington, and I cannot further say. That shipment was made from the coiner's scales, and I am not willing to say that a variation of five pieces could not have occurred, therefore that is well nigh impossible. The sudden exposure of the scale to a draught of air would possible cause a variation so considerable, but I am unable to believe that there could be a shortage of exactly five pieces in three out of five bags, which were called for by Transfer Order #12993. If such a shortage occurred it incurred to the benefit of the coiner. But I do not see how he can be called upon to make it up. His settlements have discharged him from the liability for shortages in 1885.

Very Respectfully,
M.H. Cobb
Cash.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox
Superintendent.